One of the reasons for the pursuit of the Sperm Whale is the desire to obtain that extremely valuable; product ambergris. This substance has long been known ; but its true nature was for centuries in dispute. In Dr. Johnson's *Dictionary* (so recently as the edition of 1818 •} ambergris is provided with alternative definitions ; it is either the excrement of birds washed off rocks, or honeycombs that have fallen into the *I*

An old writer asserted of ambergris that it was ** not the scum or excrement of the whale, but issues out of the root of a treo, which tree, howsoever it stands on the land, alwaies shoots fortL its roots towards the sea, seaking the warmth of it, thereby t<- deliver the fattest gum that corns out of it, which tree other-wise by its copious fatness might be burnt and destroyed/* These " explanations " were caused by the fact that ambergris is sometimes found floating in. the sea. Ambergris is, of course, it product of the intestinal canal of the Sperm "Whale; it seems to be of the nature of cholesterin, and its place of origin was con-clusively proved by finding the beaks of cuttle-fish imbedded in it. "When first extracted from the alimentary canal it is of greasy feel and consistency; later it hardens, and. acquires its characteristic sweet earthy odour. Ambergris is used mainly as a vehicle for scents, and is a costly substance. A piece weighing 130 Ibs. was valued at £500. Though now entirely used in connexion with perfumery, it was held by the ancients to be of great value as a specific In certain diseases.

The Sperm Whale is chiefly a tropical animal Examples that have been cast up on our shores are strayed Individuals. It often goes about in herds, which seem to be composed of females. Its food is chiefly cuttle-fishes, and it Is said to have a pre-dilection, for those colossal cuttle-fishes whose existence has until recently been doubted. Mr. Bullen has sketched a conflict between these two giants of the deep. On the other hand it is said that its large throat, more than big enough to swallow a man (the Whale is credited with being that which swallowed Jonah), does not usually admit fishes laxger than

Bonitos and Albaeores.

The ferocity of the Cachalot has been denied and afllnned. It certainly has great strength, for it can throw itself completely out of the water. Captain Seammon **thinks that ships** which axe mysteriously lost at sea, with no **obviously** «aigaafele cause, are sometimes the victims **of** the **foxioixs** rushes of *m* **bull**